

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10 IO-13 TRSE-00 /088 W
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P R 191609Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0934

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: REFUSENIKS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BENN GIVEN A LETTER
ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER BY SIX REFUSENIKS,
INCLUDING ALEKSANDR LERNER, HELSINKI GROUP MEMBER
NAUM MEYMAN AND HEAD OF SUNDAY SEMINAR, VIKTOR
BRAYLOVSKIY. BASIC THRUST OF LETTER IS THAT
RECENT INCREASES IN NUMBER OF JEWISH EMIGRES
PERMITTED TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION SHOULD NOT BE
CONFUSED WITH GENUINE LIBERALIZATION OF EMIGRATION
POLICY. TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS POINT, LETTER CITES
HIGH LEVEL OF REPRESSION WHICH NOW EXISTS, FACT THAT
1977 JEWISH EMIGRATION TOTAL IS ONLY HALF THAT
OF 1973, AND AUTHORS' BELIEF THAT INCREASE IN
APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION MORE THAN EXPLAINS
INCREASES IN EXIT VISAS GRANTED. THREE SIGNERS
WITH WHOM EMBOFF SPOKE SAID THEY WERE CONCERNED
THAT U.S. WOULD AGREE TO DOCUMENT AT BELGRADE WHICH
GIVES INTERNATIONAL IMPRIMATUR TO PRESENT EMIGRATION
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SITUATION AS IMPROVED OR LIBERALIZED. THEY PLAN TO
RELEASE LETTER TO PRESS PROBABLY ON SATURDAY,
JANUARY 21. WE ARE POUCHING ORIGINAL LETTER TO
EUR/SOV. INFORMAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTE: 15 JANUARY 1978

JIMMY CARTER
PRESIDENT, USA
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, USA

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

RECENTLY, OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT HAVE SEVERAL TIMES STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS LIBERALIZED ITS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM THE USSR.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE AS YET NO SIGNS OF SUCH A CHANGE IN THE EMIGRATION POLICY OF THE USSR, WHILE IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS WISHING TO LEAVE THE USSR HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INTENSIFIED.

ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA HAS ALSO INTENSIFIED. THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF BOOKS ARE PUBLISHED WHICH, UNDER THE GUISE OF THE SO-CALLED "STRUGGLE AGAINST THE WORLDWIDE ZIONIST CONSPIRACY", PROVOKE ENMITY AND HATRED OF JEWISH CULTURE, HISTORY AND RELIGION. THE CENTRAL AND LOCAL PRESS WIDELY PUBLISH ARTICLES ACCUSING THE JEWS, ESPECIALLY REFUSENIKS, OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY, ESPIONAGE AND TREACHERY. IT WAS PRECISELY IN 1977 THAT THE SHCHARANSKIY CASE WAS CREATED, ON A FALSE CHARGE. THIS WHOLE CAMPAIGN IS ACCOMPANIED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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THREATS, ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS BY THE KGB LASTING MANY HOURS AND INVOLVING DOZENS OF PEOPLE.

DESPITE THIS, THE STREAM OF APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR HAS INCREASED SO MUCH THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WERE FORCED TO INCREASE SOMEWHAT THE NUMBER OF EXIT PERMISSIONS DURING THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, AUTHORITIES INTRODUCE MORE AND MORE LIMITATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS ARE EXAMINED WAS GREATLY EXTENDED, IN COMPLETE CONTRADICTION TO THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS. IT IS KNOWN THAT MANY FAMILIES HAVE WAITED FROM EIGHT MONTHS TO A YEAR FOR AN ANSWER TO THEIR APPLICATION FOR AN EXIT VISA. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES DENIED THE RIGHT OF EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR UNDER VARIOUS PRETEXTS; MOREOVER, THE DURATION OF REFUSALS (SROKI OTKAZOV) HAS BEEN GREATLY INCREASED. IT IS NO LONGER UNUSUAL TO HAVE SUCH PERIODS OF REFUSAL AS EIGHT YEARS, SEVEN YEARS, ETC., WHICH EARLIER WOULD HAVE SEEMED COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE.

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 0934

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

THUS, AN EXPRESSION OF SATISFACTION WITH THE
PRESENT STATE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR ON
THE PART OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT IS
CONNECTED ONLY WITH THE FACT THAT THE ABSOLUTE NUMBER
OF THOSE EMIGRATING IN 1977 SOMEWHAT INCREASED IN
COMPARISON WITH 1976, WHEN THIS NUMBER WAS AT AN
ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. BUT IF ONE LIMITS CONSIDERATION
TO THE ABSOLUTE NUMBER, THEN ONE MUST FIRST OF ALL NOTE
THAT IN 1973, WHEN THE NUMBER OF JEWS EMIGRATING
WAS ALMOST DOUBLE WHAT IT WAS IN 1977, WORLD PUBLIC
OPINION CONSIDERED THE SITUATION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED
AS VERY DISTURBING, AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES WERE
ADOPTED IN THE US TO IMPROVE IT. BUT IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE TO LIMIT ONESELF TO NUMBERS ALONE: AFTER
ALL, THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES LIVE IN A SITUATION WHERE
THEY ARE PERSECUTED AND DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS
WHILE WAITING FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE.

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT UNDER
EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY DO
NOT CORRESPOND TO THE ACTUAL STATE OF EMIGRATION
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POLICY IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT CONTRADICT THE WELL-

KNOWN PRINCIPLED POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT IN THE
CAUSE OF THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CAN ONLY
LEAD TO A FURTHER WORSENING OF THE SITUATION.

PROFESSOR SOLOMON AL'BER
PROFESSOR YAKOV AL'PERT
DOCTOR VIKTOR BRAYLOVSKIY
PROFESSOR YURIY GOL'FAND
PROFESSOR ALEKSANDR LERNER
PROFESSOR NAUM MEYMAN

UNQUOTEM
MATLOCK

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